Financial Assistance to Cardiac Patients

† 3967. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present Government provides a help of maximum Rs. 30000/- to the heart patients living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, keeping in view the fact that now a days expenditure on heart surgery goes more than rupees one lakh, whether Government propose to increase the above amount; and

(c) if so, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi scheme there is no upper limit for giving financial assistance to patients living below the poverty line who are suffering from various life-threatening diseases, including heart ailments, the cost of crocedures for the treatment of heart diseases depends on the nature of

the heart ailment. The question of increasing the limit of financial assistance in such cases, therefore, does not arise.

Safed Musli, A Herbal Medicine

3968. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI RUDRAKARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 'Safed Musli' a medicinal herbal plant is cure for various ailments;

(b) whether it could be grown in backward regions such as Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and could improve the economy of the fanners;

(c) whether this plant has been classified as an endangered spacies by the Indian Institute of Forest Managment, Bhopal and its cultivation has been declining gradually, resulting in its imports on a large scale;

(d) with its manifold inherent benefits whether Government would encourage its plantation by way of subsidy and interest-free loans to the farmers; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Safed Musli has not been included in the list of endangered species and there is no evidence of its declining cultivation. This is one of 32 plants identified by the Medicinal Plants Board for captive cultivation. Subsidy to the extent of 30% of the cultivation cost subject to the maximum of Rs. 9.00 lakh is given to the grower. However, lower priority is being extended for cultivation of Safed Musli to avoid glut in market and to ensure remunerative prices to the cultivators.

Rise in Colorectal Cancer Cases

3969. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of colorectal cancer are on the rise in the capital; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the rise and the efforts made by the Government to educate the people in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Population Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) from 1988-2000 functioning under the aegis of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) does not show an increase in Colon or Rectal Cancer in the capital.

All the schemes under the National Cancer Control Programme have since been revised. Special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of Cancer through screening promotion health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme.

Winding up of CGHS

3970. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: